

REMARKS

The interview with examiner Robert M. Joynes on May 26, 2004 is acknowledged with appreciation. The examiner's summary of the interview appears to be an accurate and complete statement of what transpired at the interview.

5        The above amendment to the claims was discussed and it was agreed that the claims recitation of a brittle coating, active beads and cushioning beads of a size of about .5 to 2 mm as recited in claims 39, 44, 61 and 62 is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

10        For at least the above reasons, each of independent claims 39, 44, 61 and 62, as well as the claims dependent thereon, avoid the prior art of record. Accordingly, all of the claims are in condition for allowance and such action is, respectfully, requested.

The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if there are any matters that require further action.

15        It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and that shortages in fees, if any, be charged, or any overpayment in fees credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg, Deposit Account No. 02-1010 with reference to file 920522-905350.

20        Respectfully submitted,  
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